

# OrdnanceReports

News updates from around the world



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## Rumsfeld: Iraqis free to form own government

by Robert Burns

WASHINGTON (AP) - Iraqis will be free to form their own government as long as it is not an Iranian-style theocracy, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said Thursday.

"If you're suggesting, how would we feel about an Iranian-type government with a few clerics running everything in the country, the answer is: That isn't going to happen," he said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Speaking in his Pentagon conference room, Rumsfeld also said that U.S. and British forces are searching for many more former members of the Saddam Hussein regime than the 55 on a "most wanted" list.



"In fact we have a list of some 200," he said. "That original list was purposely kept low at the

outset because we wanted to separate the worst people from the regime, hoping that others would come forward."

Rumsfeld said more of the top 55 have been captured in the past day or so than have been made public. He said their identities will be revealed as soon as they are confirmed through interrogation or other means.

Rumsfeld, who is scheduled to visit Iraq soon, painted a mostly optimistic picture of progress in stabilizing the country and moving it in the direction of establishing a new government.

As evidence of progress, he said humanitarian aid groups which specialize in emergency care are now leaving Iraq "because there is not an emergency," in terms of food and water supplies.

He would not predict how long U.S. and allied military forces would remain in Iraq.

"The next step is to see that the Iraqi people begin to be involved in their communities and in the development of a national government," he said. He said this is beginning to happen and cited as an example the joint Iraqi-U.S. security patrols carried out in some areas.

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**DISPOSAL** — U.S. Army Spc. Jennifer Thomsen, 725th Explosive Ordnance Disposal, takes rocket-propelled-grenades to a pit to be exploded safely. U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Joshua Hatcheson

*Mechanic missing after attack near Nasiriyah, Iraq*

## Missing soldier's family hopes and waits

by Dino Chiecchi, Associated Press

DALLAS — For members of the Anguiano family, Wednesday is an anniversary they didn't want to commemorate.

It will mark one month since Army Sgt. Edward John Anguiano, 24, of Brownsville, Texas, went missing in Iraq after he and other soldiers were attacked near Nasiriyah in southern Iraq.

"There are times we don't sleep. There are times we don't want to eat," said Miguel Anguiano, the missing soldier's uncle.

Edward Anguiano, a mechanic with the 3rd Infantry Combat Support Battalion based in Fort Stewart, Ga., has been missing since his convoy made a wrong turn and drove into an ambush. Nine soldiers were killed, but six soldiers captured in the attack — all of them from Fort Bliss in El Paso — have been rescued.

Edward Anguiano's 16-year-old sister, Rebecca Grazoria, said it was hard for her to watch last weekend's televised homecoming of five of the Fort Bliss soldiers and two other former POWs.

"It was tough because my brother wasn't one of them. But we're happy for them because they were coming home. We know what it must feel like for those families," Grazoria said.

Anguiano is one of only two U.S. service members in the Iraq war still missing, and the only one whose name has been released. A crew member from an F-15E has been missing since the jet went down in Iraq on April 7.

Edward Anguiano's family got together for the Easter weekend, but their thoughts never strayed from him, his 30-year-old uncle said by telephone from his south Texas home.

San Juanita Anguiano, the missing soldier's mother, is "hanging in there. She's being strong," said Miguel Anguiano, her brother.

Military officials have told Anguiano's relatives that they continue to search for him and are committed to leaving no soldier behind. Army officials visit his mother but provide no updates, Miguel Anguiano said.

"As of now, we don't know anything," he said.

The family has been comforted by the prayers they've received from their community, and sometimes from far away.

Grazoria said she cried at the sight of a gift from a Macedon, N.Y., family: a blue pillow that read, "Hope sees the invisible, feels the intangible and achieves the impossible."

## Key Developments in the War in Iraq, Thursday, April 24

The Associated Press

— The "governmental process" in Iraq will be running by the end of next week, predicted Jay Garner, the U.S. official in charge of rebuilding the country. He met with 60 Iraqi technocrats and academics.

— U.S. officials warned the self-proclaimed "mayor" of Baghdad not to arm his followers. No recognition or support would be extended to recently returned exile Mohammed Mohsen al-Zubaidi, Garner said.

— U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan called on the U.S.-led coalition to respect international law as the "occupying power" in Iraq, drawing ire from U.S. officials at a meeting in Geneva, Switzerland.

— Baghdad is getting about one-fourth its usual supply of electricity but won't be fully powered until engineers get parts to repair transformers and power lines damaged in the war.

— In Kut, assailants twice fired on a U.S. Marine command amid rising tensions between U.S. troops and followers of a Shiite cleric who claims control of the southern city.

— U.S. Marines have begun patrols along Iraq's border with Iran to apprehend fleeing pro-Saddam officials, help Iraqi exiles who are returning home, and block the entry of potential troublemakers.

— Engineers hope to begin pumping oil from a storage tank to a refinery in Basra by Saturday. It would be the first oil refined in Iraq

since the start of the war.

— OPEC representatives gathered in Vienna, Austria, for an emergency meeting to reassess the oil exporting group's output levels now that the war in Iraq is over.

— The search for banned weapons in Iraq could be conducted by a country that is not a member of the U.S.-led coalition, instead of by the United Nations, British Defense Secretary Geoff Hoon said.

— Fourteen B-52 bombers stationed at a British air base during the war in Iraq have begun flying back to America. They flew more than 100 missions to the Persian Gulf during the war.

### Rumsfeld: Iraqis free to form own government continued

He urged caution and patience as Iraq establishes first an "interim authority" in Baghdad, to be followed by a full-fledged government and a mechanism for drafting a national constitution.

Rumsfeld quoted Thomas Jefferson: "You don't go from despotism to freedom on a featherbed."

"There will be the beginning of an interim authority soon," he said. "I don't know quite what 'soon' means." He added: "It's a little early to be impatient about it, so I can't be impatient, although the natural thing is to be impatient about it. You want the Iraqis to govern themselves."

# U.S. captures four top Iraqi officials

by Matt Kelley

WASHINGTON (AP) - American forces in Iraq captured four top officials of Saddam Hussein's former government Wednesday, including the air defense force commander and the former head of military intelligence.

The highest-ranking official in the group is Muzahim Sa'b Hassan al-Tikriti, who headed Iraq's air defenses under Saddam. He was No. 10 on the U.S. list of the top 55 most wanted officials from Saddam's regime and the queen of diamonds in the military's deck of playing cards listing those officials.

Al-Tikriti, who was from Saddam's hometown clan which made up much of the former Iraqi inner circle, also reportedly helped train the paramilitary Fedayeen Saddam forces. U.S. officials have accused Fedayeen forces of committing war crimes including using civilians as human shields and killing Iraqis who wanted to surrender.

Pentagon officials said Wednesday it was too early to determine whether any of the officials would be tried for war crimes or other violations of international law.

The latest captures bring to 11 the number of top former Iraqi officials in U.S. custody. Another three in the top 55 are believed to have been killed, Pentagon officials say.

Gen. Zuhayr Talib Abd al-Sattar al-Naqib, the former head of the Directorate of Military Intelligence, surrendered to U.S. troops Wednesday, a senior Pentagon official said.

The directorate monitored the loyalty of Iraq's regular army, provided security at Iraqi military facilities and collected intelligence on military forces opposing Iraq. The Pentagon official said Naqib's American equivalent would be the head of the Defense Intelligence Agency.

Naqib was No. 21 on the 55 most wanted list and was the seven of hearts in the deck of cards produced by the U.S. military with pictures of Saddam's associates.

Naqib was a professional soldier who rose through the ranks of the Iraqi army, U.S. officials said. The military intelligence directorate he headed was separate from the Iraqi Mukhabarat, which gathered strategic intelligence and conducted covert operations aimed at maintaining government authority.

The 56-year-old Naqib told The Los Angeles Times in an interview before his surrender that he had no apologies for his involvement in Saddam's government. He also made it clear that he had not always agreed with the Iraqi leader. However, he had shared Saddam's Pan-Arabist ideas and had hope that Iraq and its military could be the force for creating an Arab nation, the Times report said.

Also captured Wednesday was Muhammad Mahdi al-Salih, the former Iraqi trade minister and No. 48 on the most wanted list. He was the six of hearts in the military's deck.

Also Wednesday, allied special operations troops captured a



*Iraqi Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi al-Salih speaks to the press in Baghdad in this Oct. 30, 2002 file photo. Salih was captured by U.S. forces Wednesday, April 23, 2003, a senior Pentagon official said. (AP Photo/Dusan Vranic)*

Mukhabarat officer formerly in charge of American operations, a senior U.S. official said.

Jim Wilkinson, director of strategic communications for U.S. Central Command, identified the prisoner as Salim Said Khalaf al-Jumayli. He was not among the 55 most wanted.

Al-Jumayli is suspected of having knowledge of Iraqi intelligence activities in the United States, including names of people spying for Iraq, Wilkinson said in a statement from Doha, Qatar.

He offered no details about how the Iraqi was captured but said there was one Iraqi casualty during the operation. No Americans were hurt, he said.

[www.defenselink.mil/specials/stressawareness03/](http://www.defenselink.mil/specials/stressawareness03/)



*Members of the media gather around seized Iraqi artifacts during a news conference at the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection in Washington Wednesday, April 23, 2003. Several members of the media and a U.S. serviceman have been caught attempting to ship Iraqi paintings, weapons and other war souvenirs to America. At least 15 paintings, gold-plated firearms, ornamental knives, bonds and other items have been seized at airports in Washington, Boston and London in the last week. (AP Photo/Gerald Herbert)*

## Assailants shoot At Marine command post

by Burt Herman

KUT, Iraq (AP) - Assailants fired on a U.S. Marine command post in two drive-by shootings Thursday amid rising tensions between U.S. troops and followers of a Shiite cleric who claims control of this southern city.

No one was injured in the incidents, said Lt. Col. Doug Fairfield, operations officer at the Kut command post that is part of Marine Task Force Tarawa. At least 15 bullet holes were found in the building, a former Baath Party guesthouse that U.S. troops are using as their forward base inside Kut, which lies 100 miles southeast of Baghdad.

Fairfield labeled the attacks as "harassing fire," and said the Marines in Kut had "sufficient security." He said Marines returned fire briefly, but that the incidents weren't intense enough to be considered firefights.

Later Thursday, Marines were seen adding more sandbag reinforcements to the building.

Marines entered the city without resistance last week, but since then shots have been fired at them several times, Fairfield said.

The shootings came the day after a standoff on the city's main bridge over the Tigris River, where 200 protesters blocked a convoy of about 20 U.S. military vehicles for more than four hours. The same number of protesters came back for more anti-American demonstrations Thursday at the same bridge, Fairfield said.

Also Wednesday, rock-throwing protesters slightly injured one local man working as a translator for the Marines and broke the windshields of several vehicles, including trucks carrying medical supplies for local hospitals.

The protesters are backed by Said Abbas, a Shiite cleric who occupied city hall before U.S. troops entered Kut and who claims control of the city. U.S. Marines claim he has connections to Iran and groups that want to see an Islamic government in Iraq.

## List of most wanted Iraqis in custody

(Associated Press) American forces in Iraq captured four top officials of Saddam Hussein's former government Wednesday, including the air defense force commander and the former head of military intelligence.

Arrests by coalition forces so far:

- No. 10 **Muzahim Sa'b Hassan al-Tikriti**, head of Iraq's air defenses.
- No. 21 **Gen. Zuhayr Talib Abd al-Sattar al-Naqib**, director of the Directorate of Military Intelligence, which monitored the loyalty of Iraq's regular army, provided security at Iraqi military facilities and collected intelligence on military forces opposing Iraq. Seven of hearts.
- No. 48 **Muhammad Mahdi al-Salih**, former Iraqi trade minister.
- No. 18 **Muhammad Hamza al-Zubaydi**, former member of Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council and central Euphrates regional commander. Played key role in brutal suppression of Shiite Muslim uprising of 1991. Queen of spades.
- No. 24 **Samir Abd al-Aziz al-Najim**, senior figure in Saddam's Baath Party. Four of clubs.
- No. 40 **Jamal Mustafa Abdallah Sultan al-Tikriti**, Saddam's son-in-law and deputy head of the Tribal Affairs Office. Nine of clubs.
- No. 45 **Hikmat Mizban Ibrahim al-Azzawi**, finance minister and deputy prime minister. Eight of diamonds.
- No. 51 **Watban Ibrahim Hasan al-Tikriti**, Saddam's half brother. Five of spades.

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# Military exercises to go on despite SARS

by Jennifer H. Svan, Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Severe acute respiratory syndrome won't affect upcoming U.S. military exercises in Thailand and the Philippines, military officials have announced, but the disease could land participating servicemembers with some extra paperwork.

"Exercises like Balikatan and Cobra Gold are still scheduled, but airmen should expect to see some additional screening when going into, and leaving, foreign countries," said Col. Michael Lischak, a doctor and chief of the Aero-medical and Dental Division for Pacific Air Forces Surgeon General.

Servicemembers returning from nations with reported SARS cases will be given a health questionnaire, Lischak said.

To date, the Philippines has reported two SARS cases, according to

## May meeting will address U.S. military in South Korea

by Jeremy Kirk, Stars and Stripes

YONGSAN GARRISON, South Korea — U.S. and South Korean officials will meet May 6-7 in Hawaii to discuss U.S. military forces here, a Defense Ministry official confirmed Monday.

It's the second meeting of the "Future of the U.S.-ROK Alliance Policy Initiative," said Lt. Col. Moon Chong-joo, a ministry spokesman. The first meeting — held April 8-9 — centered on moving Yongsan Garrison facilities and repositioning the 2nd Infantry Division.

The 14,000-soldier division is spread north of Seoul along the Demilitarized Zone. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said in March that the forces are inflexible and intrusive on South Korea's civilian population.

Lt. Gen. Cha Young-koo, deputy South Korean defense minister for policy, will represent South Korea along with other officials, Moon said. Richard P. Lawless, U.S. assistant secretary of defense for Asia-Pacific affairs, led the U.S. side at the last meeting along with State Department officials.

The two sides agreed to relocate facilities at Yongsan Garrison "as quickly as possible." The 630-acre base, which lies in the middle of Seoul, is home to U.S. Forces Korea, the Combined Forces Command, 8th Army and the U.N. Command.

The talks analyze South Korea's ability to defend itself, while looking at how the United States can lend stability to the region, according to a release after the last round of talks.

U.S. Forces Korea aims to build a more efficient force. The joint chiefs of staff of both countries have agreed to mid- and long-term studies of their militaries.

— Choe Song-won contributed to this report.



*A group of 140 Marines based in Japan fill out health questionnaires as a way of screening for SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) upon arrival Tuesday at Clark Airbase in northern Luzon, Philippines. Photo by David Greedy, Getty Images.*

the World Health Organization. Marines are there for Balikatan, a training exercise with the armed forces of the Philippines. About 1,200 U.S. military personnel are expected to participate in the exercise, which runs from Friday to May 9.

Cobra Gold, a U.S.-Thai training exercise in Thailand, runs May 15 to May 29. Thailand has reported seven SARS

cases and two deaths so far, according to WHO, but Lischak said the virus has not been transmitted locally there.

"The cases in Thailand all originated somewhere else," he said.

Chances of contracting SARS are slim-to-none in countries where the virus isn't spreading, the doctor said.

U.S. airmen deploying from Japan to any country in Asia will receive information on how to protect themselves against SARS, said Maj. Alice Chapman, public health flight commander for Yokota Air Base's 374th Medical Group.

Thailand's Bangkok Post reported last week that Singaporean, Chinese and Vietnamese soldiers taking part in Cobra Gold will undergo health checks before leaving for the exercise and again when arriving in Thailand.

SARS has sickened almost 3,900 people in more than two dozen countries, according to the latest WHO statistics. Symptoms include high fever, aches, dry cough and shortness of breath. No cure has been found.

"The No. 1 way to protect yourself is to wash your hands frequently and avoid crowds," Chapman said, adding that the disease is spread through close, personal contact. "People don't need to be frightened of going about their business. Walking down the street or walking through an airport is not going to increase someone's risk."

No cases of SARS have been reported among active-duty servicemembers, Lischak said.

WHO reports five SARS cases in Japan and none in South Korea.

Chapman expects SARS will have minimal impact on Pacific theater military blood drives and blood supplies. No case of SARS has been transmitted through blood, Chapman said.

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## U.S. finds initials of missing Navy pilot

by John J. Lumpkin

WASHINGTON (AP) - American investigators in Iraq have found what may be a clue to the only American missing from the first Gulf War: the initials of Navy pilot Michael Scott Speicher, etched into a prison wall in Baghdad.

It is unknown who scrawled the letters "MSS" into a cell wall in the Hakmiyah prison, said U.S. officials, or whether the letters had anything to do with the missing pilot.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said an informant had also reported that an American pilot was held at that prison in the mid-1990s.

A joint team of officials from the CIA and Defense Intelligence Agency is in Iraq, searching for clues to Speicher's fate.

An attorney for the Speicher family called the news "heartening" and said the family remains hopeful. "There's a lot of information indicating that Scott is alive and in captivity," Cindy Laquidara told MSNBC in a telephone interview.

### Military exercises to go on despite SARS continued

"Nor do we know if it can be transmitted that way," she added.

But Pacific Air Forces is adhering to recent Food and Drug Administration guidelines, PACAF officials said Tuesday. They suggest that potential donors who recently visited China, Vietnam and Singapore avoid giving blood for 14 days after returning. Anyone sickened with SARS should be kept from donating until 28 days after symptoms subside and treatment is complete.

Lt. Cmdr. Speicher, an F/A-18 Hornet pilot from Jacksonville, Fla., and three other pilots flew off the USS Saratoga for a bombing run over Iraq on Jan. 17, 1991, the first night of the war. During the mission, another Hornet pilot saw a flash and lost sight of Speicher.

The next morning, the Defense Department announced that Speicher's plane had been downed by an Iraqi missile. Several months later the Pentagon classified the pilot as killed in action, but changed that last year to "missing in action, captured."

Intelligence reports from several sources led to the change, officials said.

Iraq officials have said Speicher was killed in the crash.

Speicher's flight suit was found at the crash site and there have been persistent intelligence reports about a U.S. pilot held in Baghdad.

Only one U.S. service member remains listed as missing from the second Iraq war - Army Sgt. Edward J. Anguiano, 24, of Brownsville, Texas, who disappeared after his convoy was ambushed March 23.

"We're talking about relatively few people who travel to those countries, particularly now with travel restrictions in place," Chapman said.

U.S. Pacific Command has restricted military personnel from non-mission-essential trips to China and Hong Kong. The U.S. Navy's 7th Fleet has canceled port calls and other travel to southern China and Hong Kong.

SARS, believed to have originated in southern China, has claimed 217 lives across Asia, Europe and North America, according to Monday figures from WHO.



*Iraqi women wait in line to apply for auxiliary nursing jobs as Saudi Arabian soldiers stand guard in Baghdad, Wednesday, April 23, 2003. A battalion of Saudi military arrived in Baghdad, escorting a mobile hospital which will treat emergencies as a part of Saudi Arabia humanitarian help to Iraq. The hospital should be fully functional in a day or two. (AP Photo/Jean-Marc Bouju)*



*US soldiers from the 173rd Airborne Brigade patrol the streets in the center of Mosul, northern Iraq on Thursday, April, 24, 2003. (AP Photo/Hasan Sarbakhshian)*

# At times, military system lagged media

by Martin Kasindorf, USA TODAY

The U.S. military's system of notifying families of the death of a relative ran headlong into a new world of instant media communication during the war in Iraq.

Even though the military's use of e-mail, faxes and satellite telephones made its process of identifying casualties and notifying the families

and public faster than in previous wars, its system sometimes struggled to keep up with TV reports from the battlefield.

For the first time, reporters with troops brought live pictures of combat into America's living rooms. Reporters sometimes knew the names of casualties but withheld them. The result for some families was that, after the surreal experience of watching a battle, they feared their loved one was dead, hurt, captured or missing before military officials confirmed or assuaged their fears.

Jennifer Veale-Diaz, watching the evening news April 2 in Savannah, Ga., heard a report that an Army Black Hawk helicopter had crashed in Iraq, killing six soldiers. She surmised that the unit of her husband, Scott, could be involved. After a sleepless night, she and other pilots' wives besieged battalion headquarters at Hunter Army Air Field with telephoned requests for the names of those killed.

The Army completed its painstaking process of sending uniformed teams to notify the next of kin of the dead in less than 24 hours. Veale-Diaz was relieved that the gray Army van had not stopped at her home, but she remained shaken by the uncertainty of the TV report. A 24-hour wait may seem reasonable to outsiders, she says, but "because we hear about it instantly, nearly, there's an expectation that the notification process would follow shortly thereafter. Our predecessors didn't have to go through this because they wouldn't have known about the crash."

The eerie new reality of families suspecting bad news from live broadcasts raised challenges for the military's requirement that notice be delivered in person, by military personnel in dress uniform who recite a speech conveying official regrets. The process could move faster if messengers didn't travel to families' homes. But the Defense Department defends its system as the most humane way to treat family members and to honor servicemembers' wishes that certain family members be told before the name is made public.

Military officials chafe under what they call unrealistic expectations that they can match TV's speed. "Everybody expects in the modern age that they are going to get information instantaneously," Marine Corps spokesman Brian Driver says. Forced to chase TV, the military says it worked with unprecedented speed to tell families and then release the names of the servicemembers to the public. In many cases, the Pentagon almost matched TV's immediacy.

Through Thursday, the Pentagon had identified 126 servicemembers killed, one missing and seven captured who were later returned to U.S. forces. Of the 134 names, 44 were announced to the news media within a day after a battlefield mishap. An additional 26 were made public within two days. The longest took 17 days.

Under an agreement with the Pentagon, reporters could go public after 72 hours with the names of casualties they learned on the spot. Facing that prospect, military officials set a goal of notifying relatives within 24 hours, Deputy Undersecretary of Defense John Molino says. When a casualty occurred, field commanders alerted the

## List of most wanted Iraqis in custody continued

- No. 52 **Barzan Ibrahim Hasan al-Tikriti**, another half brother of Saddam. Five of clubs.
- No. 54 **Abd al-Khaliq Abd al-Gafar**, Iraq's minister of higher education and scientific research. Four of hearts.
- No. 55 **Lt. Gen. Amer al-Saadi**, whom officials say led Iraq's unconventional weapons programs. Seven of diamonds.

In addition, Bush administration officials have said al-Zubaydi is one of eight Iraqi leaders they want tried for war crimes or crimes against humanity.

The seven others are:

- **Saddam**, ace of spades.
- **Odai Hussein**, ace of hearts. Saddam's eldest son, controlled the paramilitary Fedayeen, information and propaganda. Has reputation for brutality and flamboyance.
- **Qusai Hussein**, ace of clubs. Saddam's son and had been likely successor. Younger than Odai, Qusai supervised Special Security Organization, Special Republican Guard and Republican Guard.
- **Hani Abd al-Latif Tilfah**, king of hearts. Director of Special Security Organization, which supervised all Iraq's intelligence and internal security services and paramilitary units that protected Baghdad, Saddam's palaces and Iraq's alleged biological and chemical weapons facilities. His brother, Rafi, is the jack of hearts.
- **Abid Hamid Mahmud al-Tikriti**, ace of diamonds. Saddam's secretary and cousin. In charge of several security portfolios in '90s, including responsibility over places where Iraq allegedly hid weapons.
- **Aziz Salih Numan**, king of diamonds. Baath Party regional command chairman. As governor of Karbala and Najaf, severely repressed local dissidents. Governed Kuwait during Iraqi occupation, November 1990-January 1991.
- **Izzat Ibrahim al-Douri**, king of clubs. Vice chairman of Revolutionary Command Council, longtime Saddam associate. Was placed in command of Iraqi security forces in northern Iraq before U.S.-led invasion. His daughter is married to Odai Hussein.

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## **At times, military system lagged media continued**

services' casualty branches at the Pentagon. The branches dispatched teams from regional offices with the goal being to visit families within eight hours. "We do everything possible to make sure that families don't find out through the news media," Army spokeswoman Elaine Kanellis says.

Nearly 75% of the time, the Pentagon notified the next of kin and released a servicemember's name before the "72-hour rule" freed reporters to make it public. In the 25% of the cases in which the family wasn't notified after 72 hours, news organizations almost always refrained from publishing the name. Delays ranged from five to 17 days. Some were attributable to the "fog of war;" others to trouble in locating relatives.

At least one family got important — and welcome — news from journalists on two occasions before the Pentagon confirmed it. The military told the parents of Army Chief Warrant Officer Ronald Young, 26, of Lithia Springs, Ga., on March 24 that his Apache helicopter was missing. Later that day, they learned their son was alive and a prisoner of war when a CNN crew privately showed them a videotape that the Iraqis had taken of him and had broadcast. The Pentagon did not confirm for the family that he was a POW until the next evening. Nineteen days later, on Sunday morning, his parents learned from CNN that he was alive when they saw him and six other freed POWs. Pentagon notification came a short time later.

The notification process appeared to falter in some cases:

- Battlefield confusion and unexplained snafus could prompt delays in notification, sometimes with outdated information. Meanwhile, reporters in the field knew who was missing or had died but were bound by the 72-hour rule not to tell.

On March 25, for instance, a Marine tank and its four-man crew vanished during a nighttime combat maneuver. The tank's absence wasn't noticed for several hours. When it was, USA TODAY reporter Elliott Blair Smith, traveling with the battalion, learned the tank was missing. But word didn't reach division headquarters for 18 hours. A sandstorm delayed a search. On March 28, Navy divers found the tank submerged in the Euphrates River and recovered four bodies. But that day, military officials told families only that the men were missing. A short time later, Marines from the unit telephoned some of the men's relatives to convey word of their deaths. The Defense Department didn't tell the public until March 30 that anyone was missing. When it did, it said only three were missing. The next day, the three were listed as killed in action. The military did not tell the public about the fourth dead Marine until April 1, the day that Smith recounted the tragedy in USA TODAY. He had known the lost Marines' names for nearly a week.

- At times, family members made the names of their lost loved ones public by telling the news media before the military could notify the rest of the next of kin.

When eight Marines were unaccounted for in combat March 23 near Nasiriyah, the military notified most of their families in three days that they were missing. The wife and father of Sgt. Brendon Reiss, 23, of Casper, Wyo., were among those informed. They told

reporters. But the Pentagon didn't release Reiss' name until 17 days after the incident. Marine officials said it took that long to complete "all next-of-kin notifications." The Pentagon announced Saturday that Reiss was killed in action.

- The families of journalists who died learned of deaths more quickly than did families of servicemembers who were killed.

An Army Humvee plunged into a canal April 3, killing Michael Kelly of The Atlantic Monthly and Staff Sgt. Wilbert Davis, 40, of Hinesville, Ga. Within hours, Victoria Clarke, the Pentagon spokeswoman, called Kelly's wife, Madelyn. The Pentagon didn't release Davis' name until April 7, although editors had been told April 6 that his family had been notified. Some newspapers, including USA TODAY, ran Davis' name in April 7 editions, based on accounts from journalists in Iraq.

When NBC News correspondent David Bloom died April 5 from a blood clot, network producers on the scene informed their New York headquarters at once. Network officials broke the news to Bloom's family shortly before announcing it on the Today show.

The military has made big advances in notifying families. During World War II, it could take weeks for U.S. officials to get word of a death on a remote Pacific island. And then families were notified by telegram.

During the Vietnam War, the military began notifying families in person. But it usually took several days, and sometimes weeks. Typewritten casualty reports meandered through official channels. Hit with as many as 400 battle deaths a week, the bureaucracy sometimes was overwhelmed.

In the war in Iraq, Driver says, "we have been meeting our goal of notifying next of kin within eight hours of receiving a casualty report from the field in most cases. That's a lot better than the two or three weeks it used to take."

Some delays are inevitable. In the field, identities are checked and rechecked. "We do not ever want to make the mistake where we knock on a door and deliver information that — somebody is alive and well, and we tell their family that they've been killed," Molino says.

In peacetime, only the "primary" next of kin designated by a servicemember get told of a death or injury. Usually, that is the spouse or parents. In war, the Defense Department expands notification to a "secondary" list that may include grandparents, siblings, aunts and uncles — even friends or lawyers. "There may be up to eight or nine people," Kanellis says.

Locating and informing everyone can take days. A servicemember may have listed his wife as living near the military base, but "maybe the spouse went to her mother's house," Molino says. "Parents may have divorced," Driver says. "People go on vacation. People move."

# Al Qaeda's credibility 'on the line' as war in Iraq winds down

by David R. Sands, The Washington Times

Al Qaeda and its terrorist allies remain a potent threat, but their failure to carry out a successful strike during the U.S.-led military campaign to topple Saddam Hussein has raised questions about their ability to carry out major new attacks.

The fears of senior Bush administration officials and private terrorism analysts that al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden would attempt to "hijack" Muslim opposition to the Iraq war with a spectacular new attack have proved unfounded, even with American generals now occupying Saddam's Baghdad palaces.

"I think their credibility is increasingly on the line the longer we go without a successful terrorist strike," said Mark Burgess, director of the Terrorism Project at the Center for Defense Information.

"We know al Qaeda is a patient lot, but I don't know if they can afford to be too patient," he said. "Bin Laden made a lot of noise before the war about defending the Iraqi people, and so far there's nothing to show for it."

Despite a few suicide bombings that targeted U.S. forces in Iraq, speculation that Saddam's regime would resort to widespread terrorist attacks to disrupt the coalition campaign also did not pan out.

The link between the war in Iraq and the larger post-September 11 war on terrorism has been one of the most contested battlegrounds in the debate over toppling Saddam.

## U.S.: National Guard on active duty numbers to decline

by Robert Burns

WASHINGTON (AP) - The number of National Guard and Reserve troops called to active duty for the war in Iraq will begin to decline soon, the Pentagon official in charge of reserve policy said Thursday.

The Pentagon has not said how many of the approximately 223,000 backup troops on active duty were called up specifically for the Iraq war, but it likely is in the range of 90,000 to 120,00. The rest are performing other missions, such as security at U.S. military bases at home and abroad.

As of Wednesday, the Pentagon said there were 223,790 reserve members on active duty, an increase of 587 from a week earlier. The

### At times, military system lagged media continued

Clarke says the Pentagon's performance in releasing names to the news media "will never be as fast as some people like. It will never be as complete as some people will like." Identifying casualties "is based to a huge extent on the dignity and respect with which we want to treat these issues," she says. "Next-of-kin notification is incredibly important to us, and we'll take the time to do it right."

*Contributing: Martha T. Moore, Peter Johnson, Craig Wilson.*

The administration and its supporters argued that Saddam's regime had operational links and a common purpose with al Qaeda's campaign against the West. More broadly, they said, forceful action against Baghdad and its reported weapons of mass destruction would send a powerful message of American resolve to hostile terrorist groups and the regimes that tolerate them.

War supporters say the swift and relatively bloodless "decapitation" in Iraq has delivered just such a message.

"We have succeeded in Afghanistan and Iraq," said columnist Charles Krauthammer, a leading war backer, at an American Enterprise Institute forum this week, "and we have problems with only three major states right now: Syria, Iran and North Korea."

All three regimes, he said, have shown signs of seeking to ease U.S. concerns in the days since Saddam's regime collapsed.

"If we can change the behavior or the composition of the regimes in these three countries, then terror — the swamp in which it exists, the strength it draws — would be deeply changed," Mr. Krauthammer said. "The support structure for terrorism would be radically weakened and we could be in a position of declaring success" in the war on terrorism within a few years.

The coordinated rhetorical volleys by President Bush and his most

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number has been growing since war mobilizations began last fall.

"I think we'll see those numbers start to come down now," Thomas Hall, the assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs, said in an interview with a group of reporters. "It has to. We don't need all of those people now."

Hall did not say how soon those Guard and Reserve troops would be demobilized or in what numbers.

He noted that even as the total number of active duty goes down, some other reservists will be mobilized as replacements or for assignments related to helping with the reconstruction of Iraq.

Hall said his office is reviewing the overall mix of reserve and active duty forces to see whether some skills and specialties now largely in the reserves should be moved to the active duty force.

The Army has the largest number of National Guard and Reserve troops on active duty - 149,141. Hall said that is the largest Army Guard and Reserve mobilization since World War II.

The Naval Reserve has 11,938 on active duty, the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve have 37,179, the Marine Corps Reserve has 21,115, and the Coast Guard Reserve has 4,417.

## Al Qaeda's credibility 'on the line' as war in Iraq winds down continued

senior aides aimed at Syrian President Bashar Assad last week were the first attempt to leverage the U.S. success in Iraq with pressure on another regime on the State Department's list of sponsors of terrorism, according to one senior U.S. official.

Despite international divisions over the war in Iraq, U.S. and allied intelligence services proved they could still score successes in the global war on terrorism while taking on Saddam.

Counterterrorism analysts say the arrest of al Qaeda operations chief Khalid Shaikh Mohammed in Pakistan just days before the war began is the most damaging blow to al Qaeda since the loss of its Afghanistan training bases when U.S.-led forces toppled the Taliban.

No U.S. official is ready to declare the war on terrorism won, and administration spokesmen said both Iraqi intelligence agents and al Qaeda operatives tried and failed to carry out attacks during the war.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher revealed late last month that operatives from the United States and two friendly Middle East intelligence services had broken up terrorist attacks planned by Iraqi agents posing as diplomats.

Also, United Press International reported this week that U.S. and allied intelligence services disrupted a number of al Qaeda operations aimed at U.S. troops in the Gulf region during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The State Department issued a worldwide warning Monday that terrorist attacks on U.S. citizens may increase in the short term because of the situation in Iraq. It closely tracked previous warnings but was the first official caution since fighting began March 19.

Bin Laden, in a Feb. 14 taped message to followers that is believed to be authentic, predicted that there would be "fear, cowardliness

and the absence of combat spirit" among U.S. troops and stressed the "importance of martyrdom operations against the enemy."

The Bush administration still faces a long agenda of unfinished business in the terrorist fight, with bin Laden still at large, suspected terrorist cells still operating in North America, Europe and East Asia, and increasing security woes along the unstable border between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Afghan leader Hamid Karzai has traveled to Pakistan to press President Pervez Musharraf to crack down on efforts by Taliban and al Qaeda operatives to filter back into Afghanistan and undermine the U.S.-backed government's authority.

Terrorism experts agree that there are plenty of battles left to fight in the war on terrorism.

Although Syria has made conciliatory noises and closed its borders to fleeing Iraqi officials, the idea that Damascus will end its support for anti-Israel terrorist groups such as Hezbollah — dubbed the "A-team of terrorism" by Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage — because of U.S. pressure is a "fantasy," according to Yonah Alexander, director and senior fellow at the Arlington-based International Center for Terrorism Studies.

Mr. Alexander said the short-term effects of the U.S. military success has put a clear dent in terrorist activity, but the humiliation and shock felt across the Islamic world could prove a potent recruiting tool for anti-U.S. terrorist groups over the long run.

Terrorist groups such as al Qaeda "need motivation and they need capabilities, and they still have both. If Iraq doesn't rebound quickly, I would expect al Qaeda and its allies to try to exploit the situation. It took centuries to defeat the Christians in the Crusades, and this is a group that has patience."



*Air Force Maj. Mike Millen, right, and Capt. Brian Crismore, left, part of a survey team from the 332nd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, stop to write a message on a painting of Saddam Hussein while assessing a captured Iraqi Air Force Base in Kirkuk. Photo by Alan Lessig, Military Times.*

## Three soldiers from Fort Gordon's 73rd Ordnance Battalion grab top honors at Redstone's 59th Ordnance Brigade

Staff writer, The Signal, Fort Gordon, Ga.

The 73rd Ordnance Battalion has been red-hot at the boards lately.

In January, three soldiers from the 73rd went to the boards at the 73rd's home regiment, the 59th Ordnance Brigade at Redstone Arsenal in Alabama, and three soldiers came back winners.

Spc. Yolanda Morgan, Headquarters and Company A, 73rd Ordnance Battalion, won the Soldier of the Quarter board at Redstone, Sgt. Chris W. Langseth, Headquarters and Company A, won the Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter board at Redstone, and Drill Sergeant Staff Sgt. Nathan L. Espey took home the Drill Sergeant of the Year honor.

It was a clean sweep by the 73rd Ordnance, and the first time the 73rd has had three winners at the 59th Ordnance Brigade boards, where all the judges are also from.

"It's saying that we can go into a different environment and still do what we need to do," Morgan said of the triple victory.

Now all three winners are studying for the next challenge. Morgan and Langseth will be returning to Redstone for the 59th Ordnance Brigade Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year boards.

Meanwhile, since there are fewer drill sergeants than soldiers and NCOs, Espey is already done at Redstone by winning Drill Sergeant of the Year there. His next challenge will be going for the Army Training and Doctrine Command Drill Sergeant of the Year board at Fort Monroe June 16, which has gone to a Fort Leonard Wood drill sergeant the last six years. This is the first year Fort Gordon has had two representatives – Espey, and Fort Gordon Drill Sergeant of the Year, Drill Sgt. (Staff Sgt.) Ulysses S. Rayford. Espey was not eligible to participate in the Fort Gordon Drill Sergeant of the Year competition since he already won the 59th title.

**Staff Sgt. Nathan I. Espey**

(see story from the March 21 edition of The Signal below.)

**Spc. Yolanda Morgan**

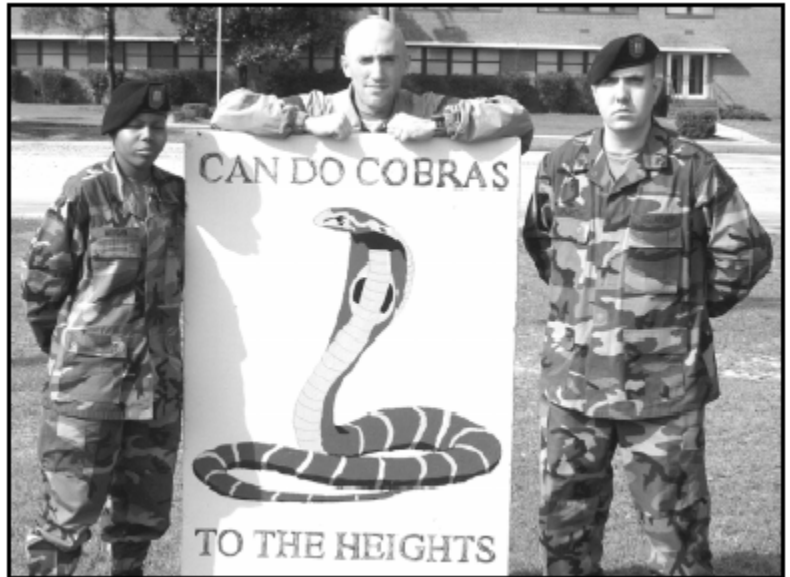
**Headquarters and Company A**

**Hometown: Bay Shore, New York.**

**How long have you been in the Army?** Two years.

**Why did you join the Army?** Mostly for help with college money.

**What do you like about the boards, or why do you feel it's important to go to them?** It's helpful because it prepares me for going to the



*(Left to right) Spc. Yolanda Morgan won the Soldier of the Quarter board at Red Stone, Drill Sergeant Staff Sgt. Nathan L. Espey took home the Drill Sergeant of the Year honor and Sgt. Chris W. Langseth won the Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter board at Redstone*

promotion board, which is coming up soon for me. By going to them and experiencing them myself, I can also help other soldiers with theirs down the road.

**How often do you study for the boards?** I probably average an hour a night of study time.

**Sgt. Chris W. Langseth**  
**Headquarters and Company A**  
**Hometown: Tucson, Ariz.**

**How long have you been in the Army?** Just under six years.

**Why did you join the Army?** To go out and do some new things, see a different area of the world.

**What do you like about the boards, or why do you feel it's important to go to them?** It's good for self development, it's good for Noncommissioned Officer Evaluation Report, good for promotions and it shows you're going above and beyond your peers to do a little extra.

**How often do you study for the boards?** It's a case of constant review, every night. After you have the material down, you need to constantly review it, so you won't have to cram all the information in over a few nights.

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*Iraqi girls walk past an American armored vehicle in downtown Baghdad on Wednesday. AP photo by Brennan Linsley.*



*An assault weapon from Iraq, thought to be gold plated, is displayed at the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection in Atlanta Wednesday, April 23, 2003. Several members of the media and a U.S. serviceman have been caught attempting to ship Iraqi paintings, weapons and other war souvenirs to America, U.S. authorities said Wednesday. At least 15 paintings, gold-plated firearms, ornamental knives, bonds and other items have been seized at airports in Atlanta, Boston, London and Washington in the last week, according to the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection. The weapon, stamped on the receiver "7.62 x 54 Made in Iraq" was one of five representative samples of items seized. (AP Photo/Ric Feld)*

## **Happy 191st Birthday to the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps Service to the line, on the line, on time since 1812**

### **Three soldiers from Fort Gordon's 73rd Ordnance Battalion grab top honors at Redstone's 59th Ordnance Brigade continued**

The Signal, March 21, 2003

#### **Drill Sergeant Espey takes top Drill honors at Redstone**

Drill Sergeant Staff Sgt. Nathan Espey of Bravo Company, 73rd Ordnance Battalion recently won top honors at the 2003 Drill Sergeant of the Year board for the 59th Ordnance Brigade conducted at Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

While the 73rd falls under the 15th Signal Brigade here at Fort Gordon, they also fall under the 59th Ordnance Brigade at Redstone. Two of the 73rd's finest were sent to Redstone to compete.

Just getting to compete in the board was no small task. About 50 drill sergeants fall under the 59th, stationed at Redstone, Fort Gordon,

and Fort Sill. Espey was a prior Drill Sergeant of the Quarter for the 73rd and was proud to represent Company B at Redstone's competition. He took part in a formal board, Army physical fitness test, written tests, and demonstrated several drill and ceremony modules.

Espey met the challenge at hand and was awarded the Drill Sergeant of the Year for 2003.

He received an Army Achievement Medal upon his return to Fort Gordon from Col. David Hafele, 59th Ordnance Brigade Commander. In addition he was awarded savings bonds, memberships in professional organizations, and several coins.

Espey's dedication to excellence has never been more apparent and his peers were not surprised when he won the award.